BISS Biodiversity Information Science and Standards

Biodiversity Information Science and Standards 2: e25148
doi: 10.3897/biss.2.25148

OPEN ACCESS

Conference Abstract

A fork in the alphabet soup: DoeDat a multilingual crowdsourcing platform

Quentin Groom‡, Ann Bogaerts‡, Nuno Veríssimo Pereira‡, Sofie De Smedt‡

‡ Botanic Garden Meise, Meise, Belgium

Corresponding author: Quentin Groom (quentin.groom@plantentuinmeise.be)

Received: 20 Mar 2018 | Published: 17 May 2018

Citation: Groom Q, Bogaerts A, Veríssimo Pereira N, De Smedt S (2018) A fork in the alphabet soup: DoeDat a multilingual crowdsourcing platform. Biodiversity Information Science and Standards 2: e25148. https://doi.org/10.3897/biss.2.25148

Abstract

Specimen labels are written in numerous languages and accurate interpretation requires local knowledge of place names, vernacular names and people's names. In many countries more than one language is in common usage. Belgium, for example, has three official languages. Crowdsourcing has helped many collections digitize their labels and generates useful data for science. Furthermore, direct engagement of the public with a herbarium increases the collection's visibility and potentially reinforces a sense of common ownership. For these reasons we built DoeDat, a multilingual crowdsourcing platform forked from Digivol of the Australian Museum (Figs 1, 2). Some of the useful features we inherited from Digivol include a georeferencing tool, configurable templates, simple project management and individual institutional branding.

© Groom Q et al. This is an open access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License (CC BY 4.0), which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited.

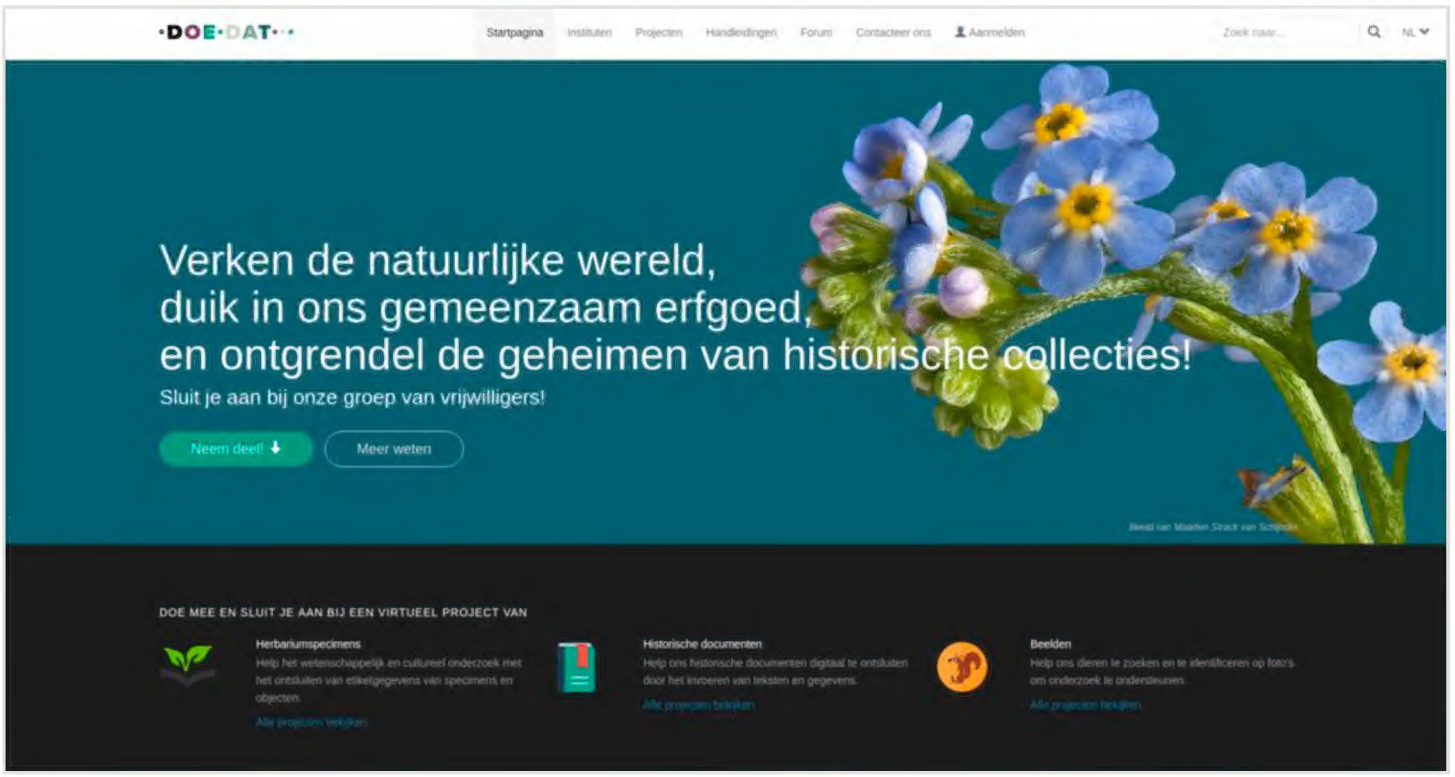

Figure 1.

The Dutch language home page of doedat.be with the logo and picture of a forget-me-not.

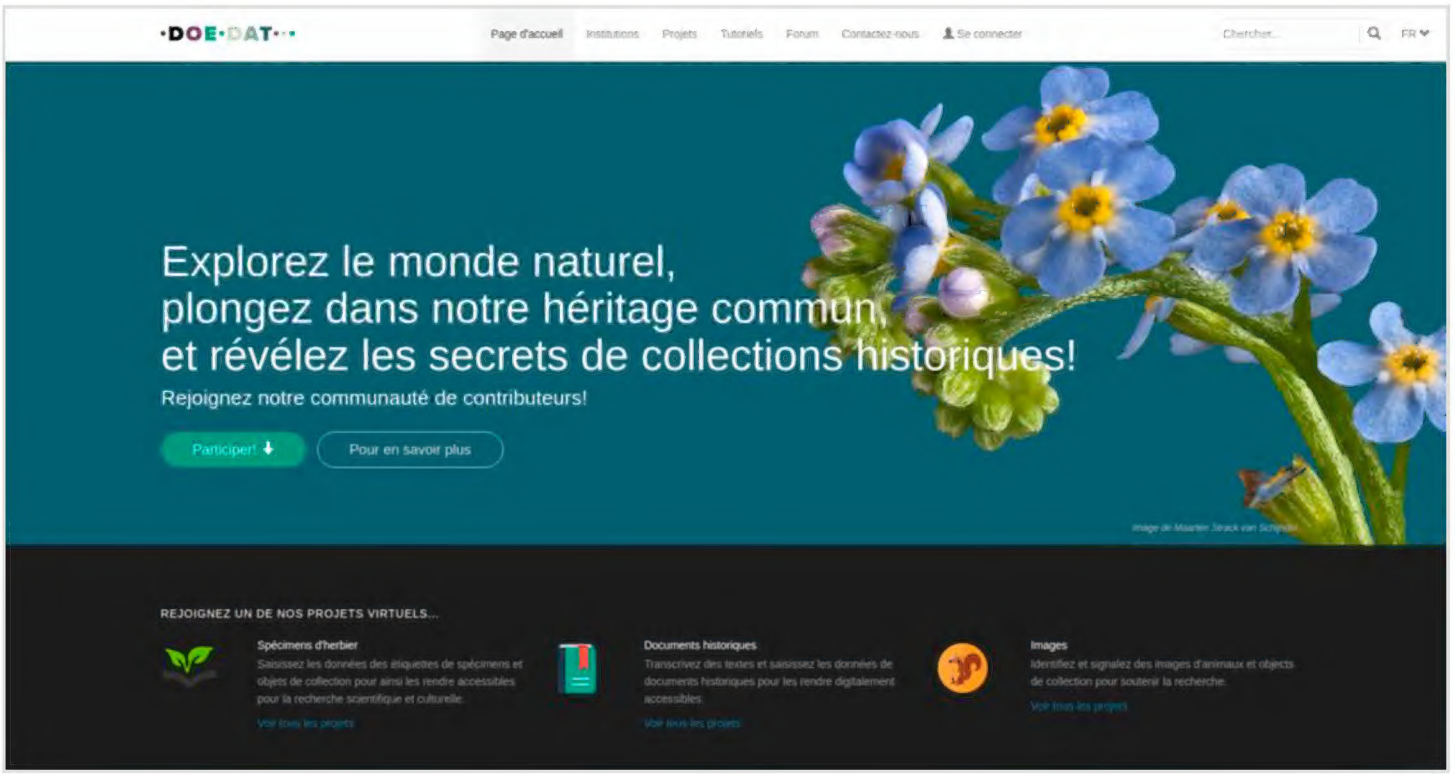

Figure 2.

The French language version of the doedat.be home page.

Running a multilingual website does increase the work needed to setup and manage projects, but we hope to gain from the broader engagement we can attract. Currently, we are focusing our work on Belgian collections were Dutch and French are the primary languages, but in the future we may expand our languages when we work on our international collections. We also hope that we can eventually merge our code with that of Digivol, so that we can both benefit from each other's developments.

Keywords

public engagement, internationalization, citizen science, herbarium, transcription, data capture

Presenting author

Quentin Groom

Grant title

DOE! (Digitale Ontsluiting Erfgoedcollecties)

Hosting institution

Botanic Garden Meise